



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

NEWS RELEASE

George Washington and Jefferson National Forests

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GINSENG COLLECTION PROHIBITED ON JEFFERSON NATIONAL FOREST

Recent television series spotlights collection of American ginseng

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Roanoke, VA – Ginseng on the Jefferson National Forest is scarce; collecting any portion of the plant, including the berries, for personal or commercial use is prohibited. American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) was once widespread in the Appalachian region and eastern United States, but is now rare due to overharvesting and less habitat. Removing ginseng from the national forest comes with strict penalties, including a fine of up to \$5,000, six months in jail, or both.

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